

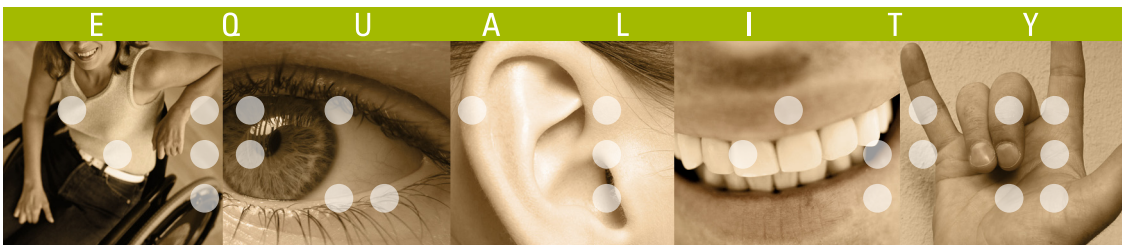
WHY LANGUAGE MATTERS!

Language reflects the social context in which it is developed and used and therefore reflects the values and attitudes of that context, and plays an important role in reinforcing values and attitudes that lead to discrimination and segregation of particular groups in society.

Language plays a key role in maintaining attitudinal barriers that are harmful to persons with disabilities.

It leads to stereotyping and labeling of disabled people. Language can be used as a powerful tool to bring about change and bring about new values, attitudes and social integration.

Negative attitudes and stereotypes can play a detrimental role in the experience of disabled students. It can result in the lack of access to support that is so vital for disabled students to succeed in their academic endeavors.



UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN DISABILITY SERVICE



PROMOTING ACCESS AND DEVELOPING SOLUTIONS

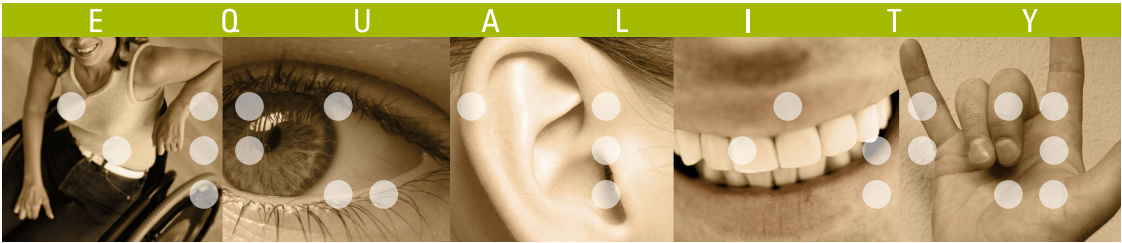
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The following are examples of preferred terminology as accepted by Disability Rights Movement of South Africa and Disabled People South Africa:

YES	NO
Disabled Person / People with Disabilities	afflicted with... / victim of...
non-disabled	able-bodied
uses a wheelchair	wheelchair bound / confined to a wheelchair
disability	handicap physical / mentally challenged cripple / crippled
deaf	deaf-mute / deaf and dumb
persons with cerebral palsy	deformed / deformity / birth defect
persons with epilepsy	cerebral palsied / spastic
little / short people person of short stature	epileptic
person with paraplegia he / she has quadriplegia	dwarf / midget
	paraplegic / quadriplegic



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